# Memorandum

June 12, 1996

From: David Davidson, City of Sumas, (360)676-8463

Re: Interviews for Sumas Flood Plain Project

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| To: | Gerald Bibee, Montgomery Water Group, Inc. | 9:00 am - 10:00 am |
| | Michael Milne, Woodward Clyde Consultants | 10:30 am - 11:30 am |
| | Raymond Walton, WEST Consultants | 12:45 pm - 1:45 pm |
| | Tony Melone, KCM | 2:15 pm - 3:15 pm |

The Sumas selection committee has short-listed your firms and invites you to attend interviews that will take place on Thursday, June 20, in Bellingham. The time of each firm's interview is shown above opposite the firm's name.

The interviews will take place in the council committee meeting room on the ground floor of the Whatcom County Courthouse, 311 Grand Avenue, Bellingham. The room has a projector screen and an overhead projector (although I can't guarantee that the projector will work...). See the attached map for directions to the courthouse.

The Sumas selection committee is a mix of lay and technical people, including: Ed Regts, City Engineer of Abbotsford, B.C.; George Ferguson, Mayor of Abbotsford; Robert Mitchell, Mayor of Sumas; Lawrence Silvis, Sumas Public Works Director; Don Peterson, Sumas councilman; John Matzinger, Whatcom County Flood Engineer; Dick Grout, Dept. of Ecology Bellingham office supervisor; Kim RattlingTail, Dept. of Ecology GIS technician.

There will be a common format to each interview. The first half hour will consist of a presentation by the consultant, and the last half hour will be a question-and-answer session. Listed below are some common questions/topics that you should make sure are addressed at some point during your presentation. In the q-and-a session, we will ask some questions specific to your firm's methodology or personnel.

Common topics/questions:

1) Give a brief overview of the proposed model methodology. Some of you propose 1-D unsteady models, others propose 2-D steady-state. Dealing with the specifics of the setting in Sumas, why is your proposal the best model for this project? What kinds of flow can it best model? What kinds of flow are problematic? We know that at different flood stages, the patterns of flow in town are different. How will the model cope with this? How does the model represent a trestle under a rail embankment (i.e., a choke point)? How about a rail trestle that later overtops and acts like a weir? How does it represent diverging flow

directions and eddies? Explain the limitations of the proposed model to definitively determine the hydraulic impact of a given development on adjacent properties.

2) Have you (meaning the staff available to your firm today) ever run the model on a project as large-scale as this? What problems were encountered on similar projects? How did you overcome the problems? What problems do you expect to encounter on this project?

3) Describe the steps of model construction from raw data through finished product. How long will the process take?

4) How will the model be integrated with incoming flows generated by the county's existing FESWMS model?

5) Are the model's results acceptable to FEMA for the purposes of flood insurance rate maps? Give specific examples of FEMA acceptance of maps generated by your firm with the model, preferably within Region X. How long would it take to receive FEMA acceptance?

6) What level of expertise and training is required to run the model? Exactly who will build the model, and what experience does that person have with similar projects?

7) What is the form of model output (bring example)? How will model output be integrated with Sumas's existing GIS data set and/or software? Have you implemented such a linkage before?

8) How "friendly" is the model? What adjustments to the model do you expect the city will be capable of making? Changes to the hydraulic grid or network? Changes to terrain? What adjustments would need to be made by your firm? What would be the cost and turnaround time of a typical change made by your firm?

9) Provide an overview of how the modeling task should integrate with the preparation of the EIS and the amendment of the comprehensive plan, with an emphasis upon the best way to solicit informed public opinion.